

Navy New London Public Affairs Office

# Media Advisory

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C/O Naval Submarine Base New London \* Groton, CT 06349 \* (860) 694-5980 \* (860) 694-4699

For Immediate Release

Feb. 11, 2005  
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## **Navy to commission final Seawolf-class submarine**

**GROTON, Conn.** – The Navy will commission the third and final Seawolf-class nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine, USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23), 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 19 at Pier 17 on Naval Submarine Base New London's (SUBASE) Lower Base.

President Jimmy Carter, ship's sponsor Rosalynn Carter and retired Adm. Stansfield Turner will be present for this historic event. Turner, who served as the director of the Central Intelligence Agency under President Carter, will also be the ceremony's principal speaker. The Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy, will commission the ship.

Constructed at the General Dynamics Electric Boat Shipyard here, Jimmy Carter is the first naval vessel to be named for the 39<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Designed to meet the challenges of the 21st century, the submarine's unique features enable it to work more effectively in shallow water and support special operations forces, without sacrificing Seawolf-class warfighting capabilities.

Jimmy Carter's flexibility provides the Navy with an undersea combat platform able to perform a wide spectrum of operations anywhere in the world.

One standout feature separating this submarine from all others is its Multi-Mission Platform (MMP), which includes a 100-foot, 2,500-ton hull extension that enhances payload capability. The MMP enables Jimmy Carter to accommodate the technology required to develop and test an entirely new generation of weapons, sensors and undersea vehicles. At the same time, the submarine retains the operational characteristics of the Seawolf-class -- the fastest and most heavily armed undersea combatants in the world.

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## JIMMY CARTER COMMISSIONING

### 2-2-2-2

Jimmy Carter's first commanding officer is Capt. Robert D. Kelso, a native of Fayetteville, Tenn., and a 1983 graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He leads a crew of 14 officers and 126 enlisted Sailors.

Jimmy Carter will transfer in late 2005 to the U.S. Pacific Fleet to its new homeport in Naval Base Kitsap, Wash.

For more information on the Jimmy Carter commissioning, please visit the Jimmy Carter Commissioning website at [www.csg2.navy.mil/jimmycartercommissioning.htm](http://www.csg2.navy.mil/jimmycartercommissioning.htm).

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***Editor's note: Any media wishing to send representatives to cover this event MUST fill out and return the attached credential form to Navy New London Public Affairs no later than 10 a.m., Wednesday, 16 Feb. Forms can be faxed to (860) 694-4699 or e-mailed to [lena.blanch@navy.mil](mailto:lena.blanch@navy.mil).***

***\*\*ANYONE NOT SUBMITTING A FORM WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE EVENT.\*\****

***With the current security posture, only credentialed media will be authorized on board Naval Submarine Base New London. Satellite trucks will be allowed at the event. Due to security issues, the trucks will have to be at Gate 7 for inspection no later than 7:30 a.m. Gate 7 is the commercial vehicle gate on Crystal Lake Road. Stations who wish to have a satellite truck on site earlier for early morning newscasts must contact the Public Affairs Office to make arrangements by 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 17. Once early morning broadcasts are completed, trucks may leave, but will not be allowed to return. Satellite trucks that are on station for the actual ceremony will not be able to leave until the completion of the event.***

***All media, except satellite trucks, will report to Gate 7 no later than 8:30 a.m. on the day of the event for security checks, credentialing and transportation to the Command Information Bureau.***